Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A mounting device for connecting an electrical fixture to a junction box that is mounted to a wall or ceiling surface, the mounting device comprising:

a canopy element that covers the junction box upon connection of the mounting device to the junction box;

a connector that connects to the electrical fixture and is disposed between the canopy element and the junction box; and

a universal mounting plate integrally formed with the connector that connects to the junction box.

2. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the electrical fixture comprises an exit sign.

3. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the universal mounting plate includes a plurality of apertures patterned to correspond to apertures in the junction box.

4. The mounting device of claim 3, further comprising at least one fastener that extends through at least one of the plurality of apertures in the universal mounting plate and a corresponding aperture in the junction box.

5. The mounting device of claim 4, wherein the at least one fastener connects the junction box and the universal mounting plate without engaging or passing through the canopy element.

6. The mounting device of claim 5, wherein the at least one fastener comprises two screws.

7. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein:

the connector has a plurality of circumferential ridges; and

the canopy element includes an opening and is positionable relative to the wall or ceiling surface by engagement between a peripheral edge of the opening of the canopy element and any one of the plurality of circumferential ridges of the connector.

8. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the connector further comprises:

flexible tabs that bias against opposing surfaces of the electrical fixture upon attachment of the electrical fixture to the connector to position the canopy element flush against the wall or ceiling surface.

9. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the connector further comprises:

a plurality of radial ridges disposed about a surface of the connector that mates with the electrical fixture; and

the plurality of radial ridges engaging corresponding ridges disposed on a surface about the periphery of an opening in the electrical fixture to prevent displacement of the electrical fixture relative to the mounting device.

10. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the connector further comprises a plurality of torsion hooks that extend into an opening in the electrical fixture and engage surfaces of the electrical fixture adjacent the opening.

11. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the connector includes at least one hook receivable within an opening in the electrical fixture and the mounting device further comprises a locking pin with a camming surface that engages with a surface of the at least one hook of the connector to secure the mounting device to the electrical fixture.

12. The mounting device of claim 11, wherein the connector further comprises at least one redundance member that retains the connector in connection with the electrical fixture during assembly of the electrical fixture and connector.

13. The mounting device of claim 12, wherein the at least one redundance member includes structure for snap-fitting to surfaces disposed about the opening in the electrical fixture.

14. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the junction box is mounted flush with the wall or ceiling surface.

15. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the junction box is completely recessed within the wall or ceiling.

16. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein at least one edge of the junction box extends outside the wall or ceiling surface.

17. The mounting device of claim 1, further comprising at least one fastener received within at least one of a plurality of apertures of the universal mounting plate and joinable to the junction box such that the at least one fastener connects the mounting device to the junction box without engaging or passing through the canopy element.

18. A mounting device for connecting an electrical fixture to a junction box that is mounted to a wall or ceiling surface, the mounting device comprising:

a canopy element that covers the junction box upon connection of the mounting device to the junction box;

a connector that connects to the electrical fixture, wherein:

(i) the canopy element is disposed between the connector and the electrical fixture;

(ii) the connector includes flexible tabs that bias against opposing surfaces of the electrical fixture upon attachment of the electrical fixture to the connector to position the canopy element flush against the wall or ceiling surface; and

a universal mounting plate integrally formed with the connector that connects to the junction box.

19. The mounting device of claim 18, wherein the connector includes at least one hook receivable within an opening in the electrical fixture and the mounting device further comprises a locking pin with a camming surface that engages with a surface of the at least one hook of the connector to secure the mounting device to the electrical fixture.

20. A mounting device for connecting an electrical fixture to a junction box that is mounted to a wall or ceiling surface, the mounting device comprising:

a canopy element that covers the junction box upon connection of the mounting device to the junction box;

a universal mounting plate that connects to the junction box and is disposed between the canopy element and the junction box; and

connecting structure integrally formed with the electrical fixture that connects the electrical fixture to the universal mounting plate.

21. A lighting fixture that connects to a junction box that is mounted to a wall or ceiling surface, the lighting fixture comprising:

a housing that includes indicia and at least one illumination source that illuminates the indicia; and

a mounting device that connects the housing to the junction box, the mounting device including:

a canopy element that covers the junction box upon connection of the mounting device to the junction box;

a connector that connects to the housing and is disposed between the canopy element and the junction box; and

a universal mounting plate integrally formed with the connector that connects to the junction box.

22. The lighting fixture of claim 21, wherein:

the connector has a plurality of circumferential ridges; and

the canopy element includes an opening and is positionable relative to the wall or ceiling surface by engagement between a peripheral edge of the opening of the canopy element and any one of the plurality of circumferential ridges of the connector.

23. The lighting fixture of claim 21, wherein the connector further comprises:

flexible tabs that bias against opposing surfaces of the housing upon attachment of the housing to the connector to position the canopy element flush against the wall or ceiling surface.

24. The mounting device of claim 21, wherein the connector includes at least one hook receivable within an opening in the electrical fixture and the mounting device further comprises a locking pin with a camming surface that engages with a surface of the at least one hook of the connector to secure the mounting device to the electrical fixture.

25. The lighting fixture of claim 21, further comprising at least one fastener received within at least one of a plurality of apertures of the universal mounting plate and joinable to the junction box such that the at least one fastener connects the mounting device to the junction box without engaging or passing through the canopy element.